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NATIONAL WHEAT PRODUCTION UP -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 24 Jul 51

Peiping, 22 July (Hsin-hua) -- The wheat harvest which began in some areas in mid-May 1951 was entirely finished by the end of June. Early reports reveal a national average of about 10 percent increase over 1950 yields. The quality of the grain is considerably better than last year. The best yields are reported from East China where there is a 30-percent increase over last year in both wheat and barley.

The extensive conservation works carried out in the Huai River valley during the spring and a comparatively light rainfall have resulted in a wheat yield twice that of last year when this area was heavily flooded. Yields per mou are up in a number of areas. In Hunan, the yield is up 20 percent. In Shensi, the yield per mou is 195 catties as compared with 162 last year. The highest yield of all is reported from the Han-chung area of Shensi where the average yield is 221 catties per mou.

Bad weather conditions in the Southwest and in North China have resulted in smaller yields there. However, there was some reduction in the grain-growing area in favor of cotton.

Irrigation projects completed recently in Kwangtung are expected to increase the annual production by 1,600,000 market catties (one market catty equals 11 pounds).

HONAN GOVERNMENT ISSUES TOBACCO CULTURE DIRECTIVE -- K'ai-feng, Honan Jih-pao, 5 May 51

The Honan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry has issued a directive intended to promote better results in tobacco culture. The main provisions are as follows:

1. Taking into consideration local conditions, regular times should be set for planting, transplanting, fertilizing, irrigating, insect destruction, harvesting, curing, and grading. The patriotic emulation program should be popularized.
2. In places where production is below normal, mutual-aid groups should be held to discuss better techniques before each type of operation begins.
3. Places short of labor, fuel, fertilizer, and capital should be helped by diverting these items from areas with surpluses. Those who may be inclined to undertake more than they can handle should be advised to temper their enthusiasm.

OUTLINES ANTI-DROUGHT MEASURES -- K'ai-feng, Honan Jih-pao, 17 May 51

The Honan provincial authorities, recognizing that Honan has been subject to both drought and flood to an unusual degree during the past years, have outlined a set of principles intended to help the people to cope with these hindrances to production in an intelligent manner on a long-range basis. They are as follows:

In the past, the people have been too much inclined to follow superstition and the path of least resistance in these matters. The time has come for a planned scientific approach to these problems. If lands are low and wet, they must be drained; if too dry, they must be irrigated. All

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this requires prior planning and energetic activity. By a process of continuous selection under intelligent direction, drought- and insect-resistant seeds must be developed. People must learn how to destroy the nesting places of insects before they hatch.

The farmers should be encouraged and instructed in raising between-season crops so that there will never be a time when they are entirely dependent upon a single harvest for food. Furthermore, the people must husband their resources after harvest just as frugally as they do before harvest. Austerity must be practiced on a year-round basis. There must be a continuous building year-by-year on the results of the year before.

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